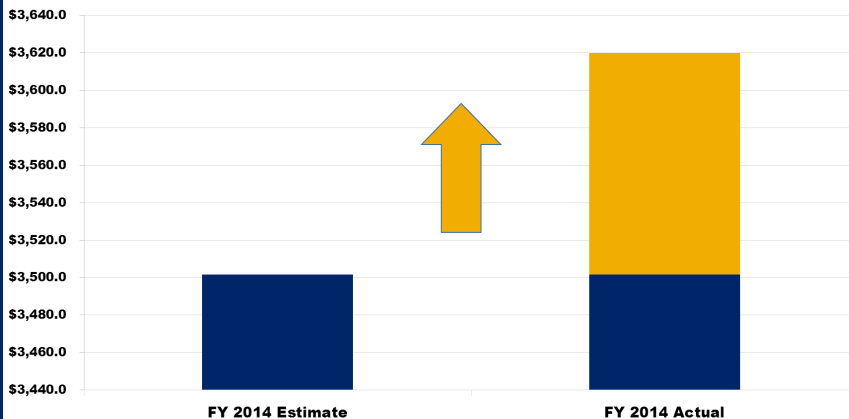




NOTES FROM THE RANGE

March 31, 2014

Current Fiscal Year SGF Tax Receipts Through February 2014



Revenue Receipts Growing

The Kansas Department of Revenue has released its March figures:

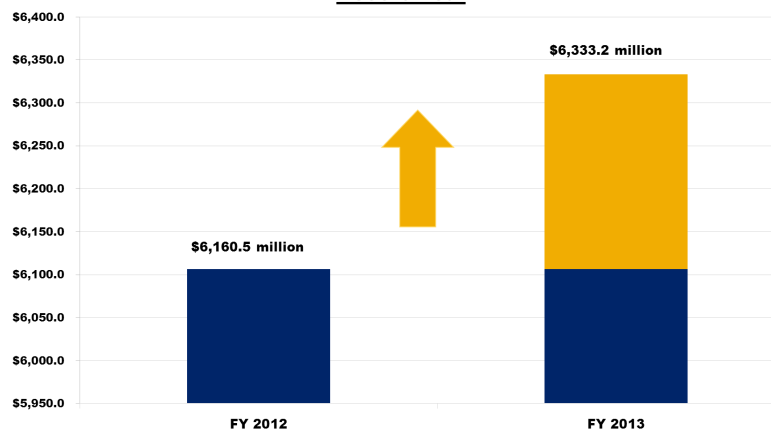
- Corporate income tax receipts were \$17.8 million, or 59 percent more than expected
- Sales tax receipts were \$7.3 million more than estimates.
- Tax revenue receipts for fiscal year to date are \$130.7 million more than estimates, or 3.4 percent.

Kansas economy continues to grow, unemployment drops

Kansas is growing. Here are just some highlights showing growth in our economy:

- For the third consecutive month, the Kansas unemployment rate was below 5 percent. This is the first time since 2008 the state has enjoyed three months in a row with an unemployment rate that low.
- Building permits in Kansas have increased 22.5 percent from December 2012 to December 2013. Building equals buying.
- Kansas has had back-to-back years of creating more than 10,000 jobs. This continues the job growth trend with 45,000 jobs created from January 2011 to December 2013.
- Record new business formation for 2013, with 15,469 new domestic entity filings in the state.

Comparison of FY 2013 SGF Tax Receipts to FY 2012
Record Year



- Investment in education continues, with more than 600 new teachers in Kansas classrooms since I took office.

We are building momentum in 2014 as income taxes on all working Kansas have once again decreased. Just a couple of weeks ago, the Kansas House of Representatives voted 120 to 0 to uphold the tax cuts.

Welcoming Mars Chocolate North America to Kansas



Celebrating the opening of the new Mars plant in Topeka. I joined Victoria Mars, CEO of Mars, Inc., and Debra Sandler, President of Mars Chocolate North America in hitting the “start” button at the Topeka Mars Chocolate North America Plant on March 27. The plant brings 200 jobs and a \$270 Million investment to Kansas. It is the first North American plant built by Mars in 35 years.

Federal Government lists lesser prairie chicken as “threatened”

On March 27, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated the lesser prairie chicken as a “threatened” species.

They did this despite concern raised by the states directly affected by this decision, including Kansas. This decision jeopardizes our largest industries—agriculture and energy—and the rights of Kansas landowners.

Kansas, along with neighboring states, developed a multi-state range-wide conservation plan that provided recovery strategies for the lesser prairie chicken. U.S. Fish and Wildlife nonetheless chose to list the lesser prairie chicken as “threatened.”

When this issue first was raised, I wrote a letter to the director of Fish and Wildlife saying Kansas would avail itself of all possible remedies if the lesser prairie chicken

was designated as threatened or endangered, including independent judicial review of the decision.

Kansas is joining a legal action filed by the State of Oklahoma that challenges the listing. An amended claim will now be filed in Oklahoma, adding Kansas as a plaintiff and expanding the allegations and legal claims in the suit.

This is an intrusion by the federal government into the every day lives of Kansas citizens. The interests of conservation and protection of the lesser prairie chicken can be furthered without the heavy-handed measures that likely will accompany this federal listing.